

# Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype

April 25, 2017

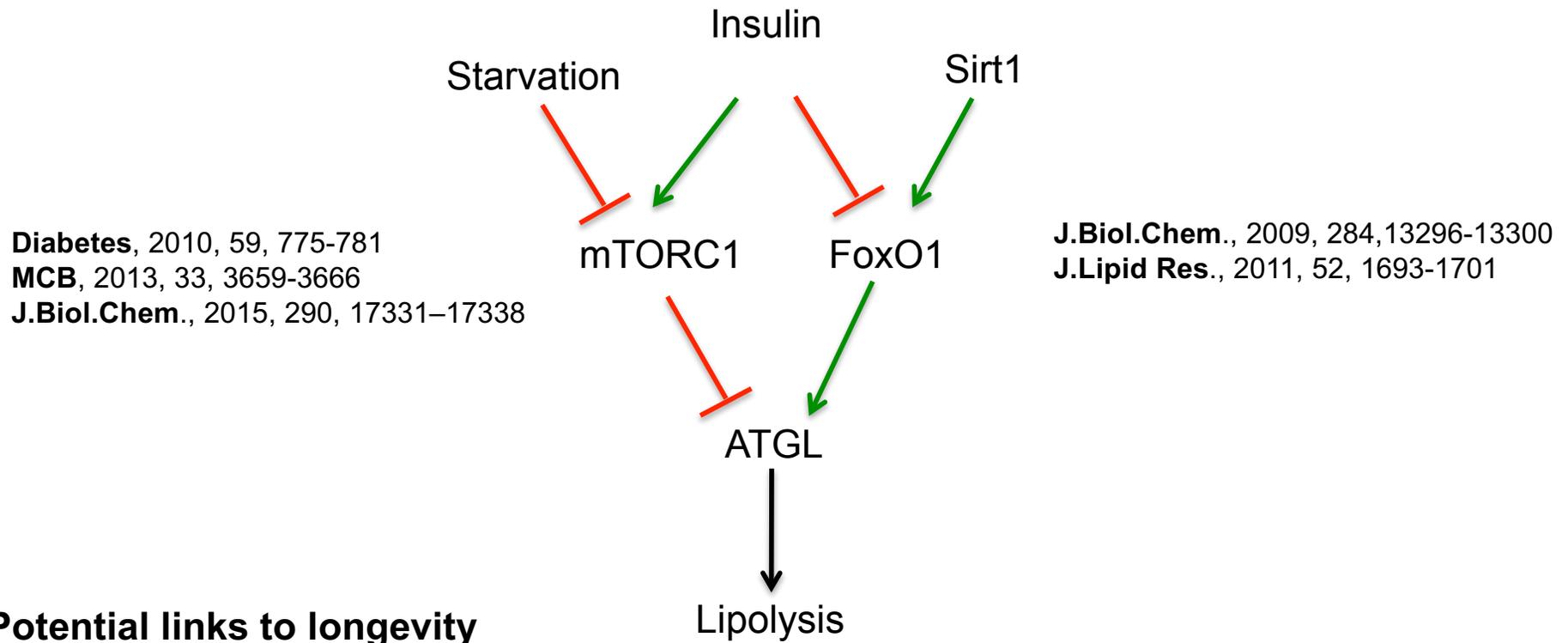
# ATGL and Longevity

Konstantin Kandror

Professor

Biochemistry  
MED

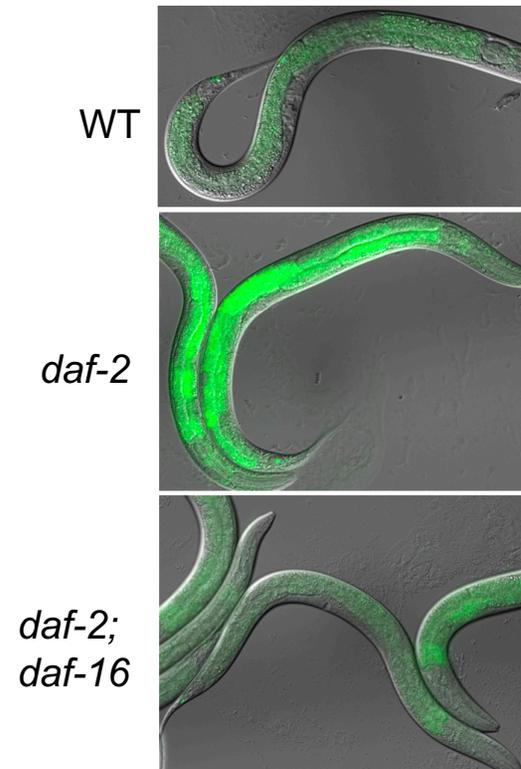
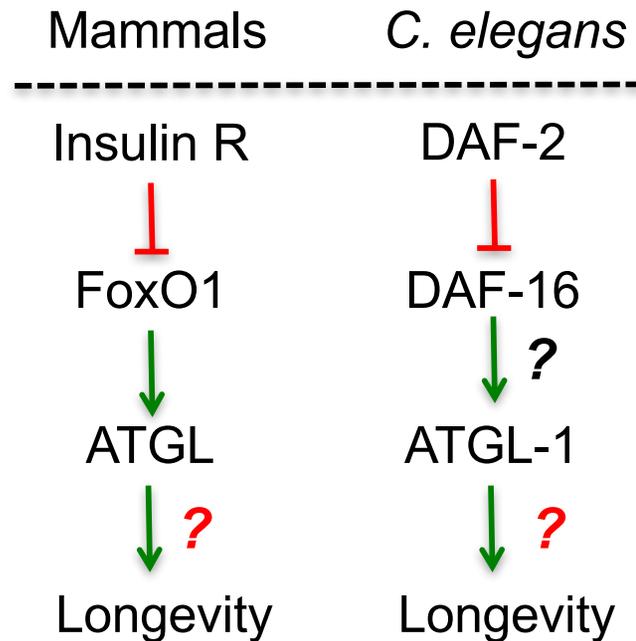
## Insulin regulates the expression of the rate-limiting lipolytic enzyme, ATGL



### Potential links to longevity

1. Calorie restriction
2. Inhibition of IIS  
(traced down to Daf-16 and dFoxO)
3. Rapamycin and genetic manipulations  
with the mTORC1 pathway
4. Sir2/Sirt1

## ATGL-1::GFP expression in *C. elegans*



Larval stage 4  
200x magnification  
450 ms exposure

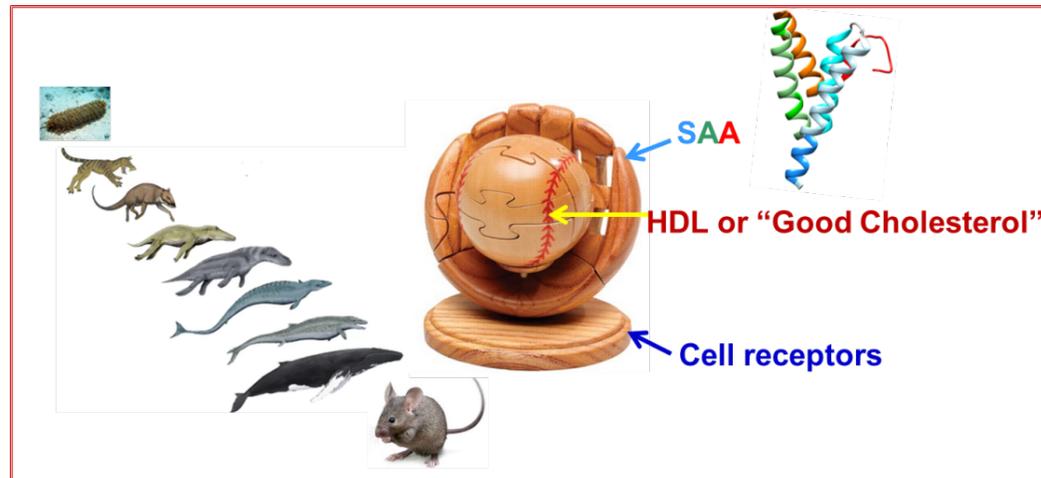
FUNDING: NIH, ADA

With Alla Grishok

Boston University Office of the Vice President and Associate Provost for Research



# Serum Amyloid A: An Acute-Phase Protein in Search of Ligands



**Olga Gursky**

Professor

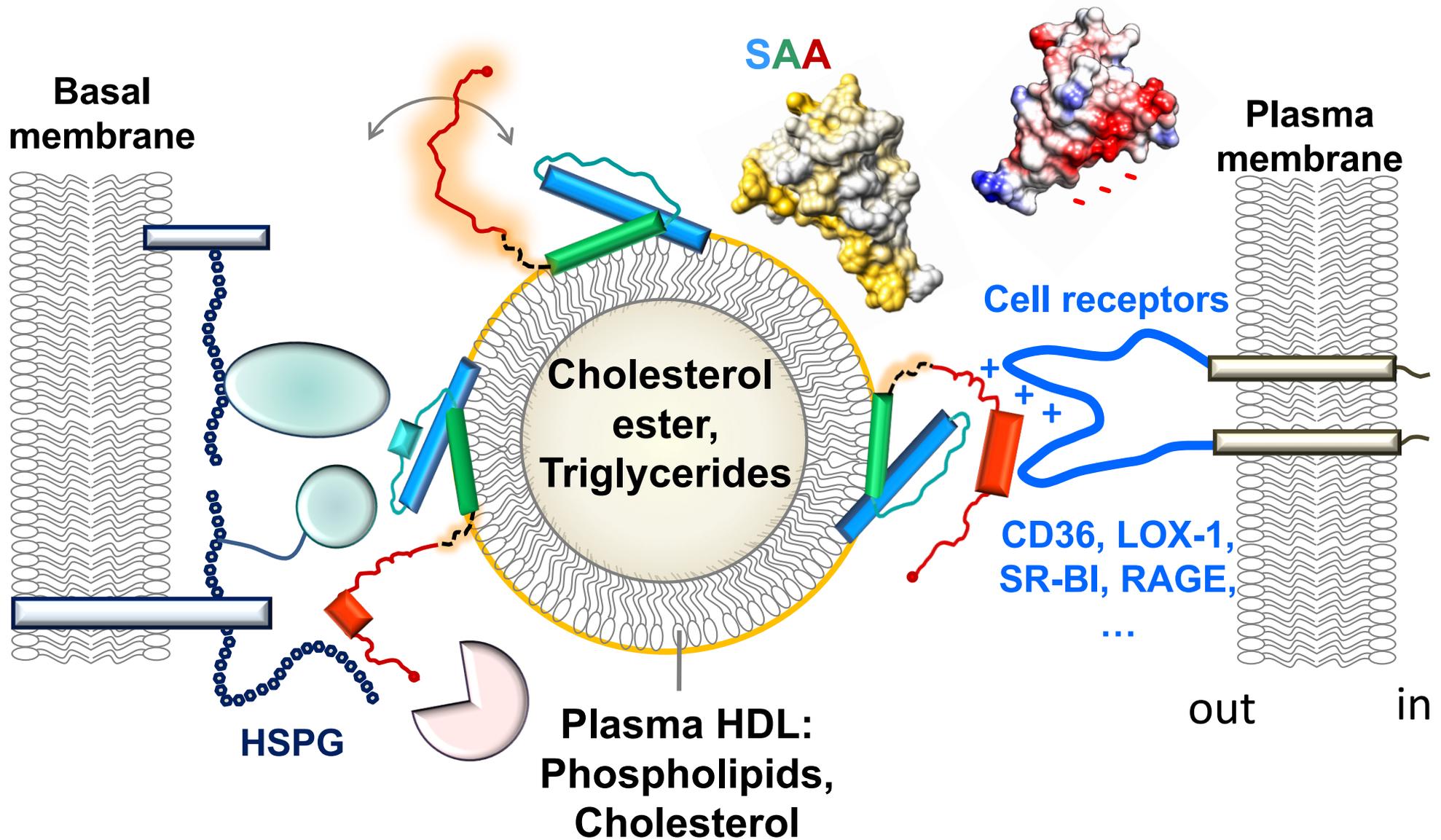
Physiology & Biophysics  
MED

Nicholas Frame, Shobini Jayaraman, Donald Gantz

**Boston University** Office of the Vice President and Associate Provost for Research

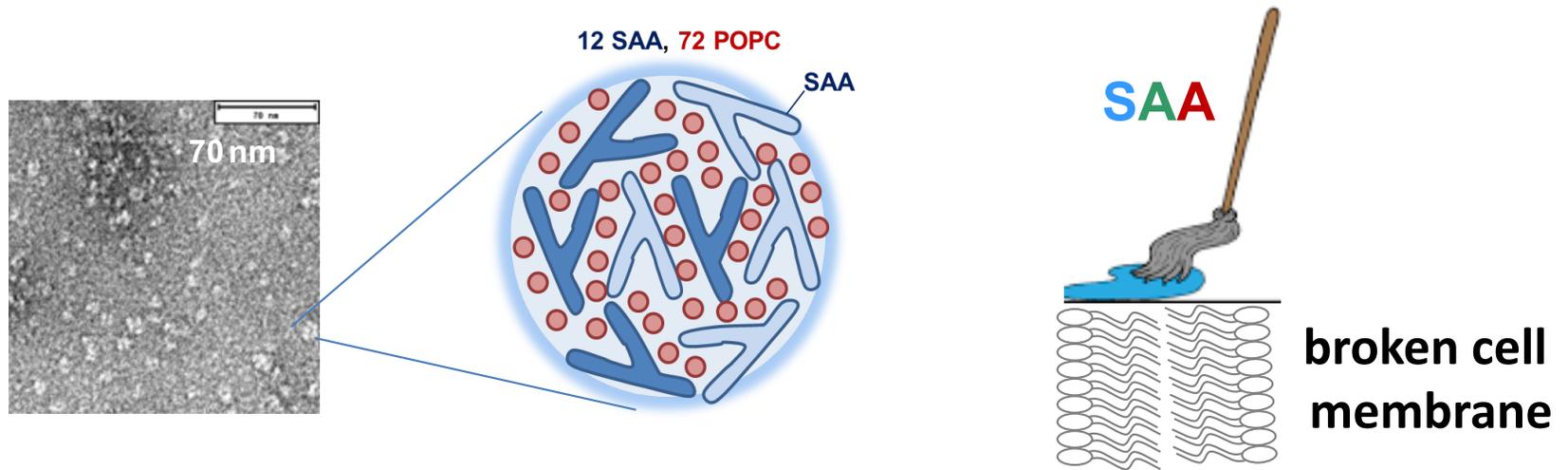


# SAA on acute-phase HDL: an intrinsically disordered protein hub



## A new function for an ancient protein: A “molecular mop”

- SAA can also generate lipoproteins *de novo* by solubilizing lipid bilayers in a spontaneous energy (ATP)-independent process.
- This process is relevant to **inflammation and injury** when membranes of dead cells require rapid removal but ABC transporters do not work.



- SAA re-packs lipids into nanoparticles that are taken up by receptors (CD36, LOX-1, RAGE, etc.) on various cells and used for tissue repair.
- The ability of SAA to rapidly clear cell debris probably represents the **primordial function of this ancient acute-phase reactant**.

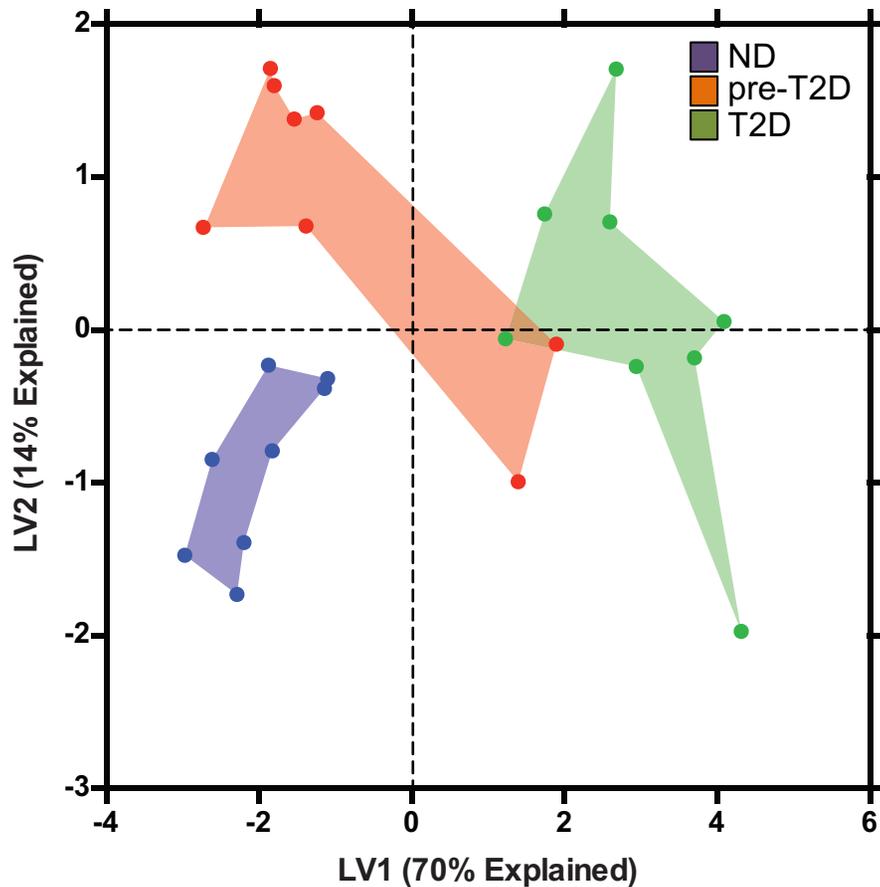
# Mechanisms Driving Inflammation in Human Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes

Barbara Nikolajczyk

Associate Professor

Microbiology  
MED

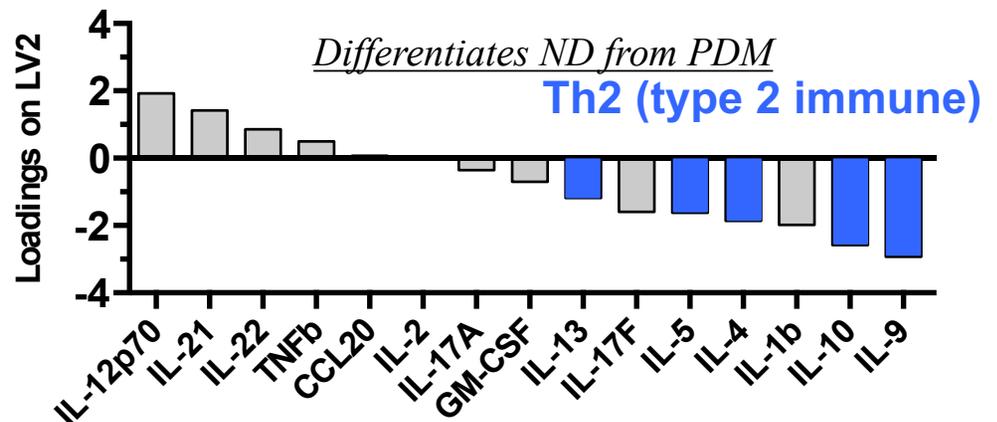
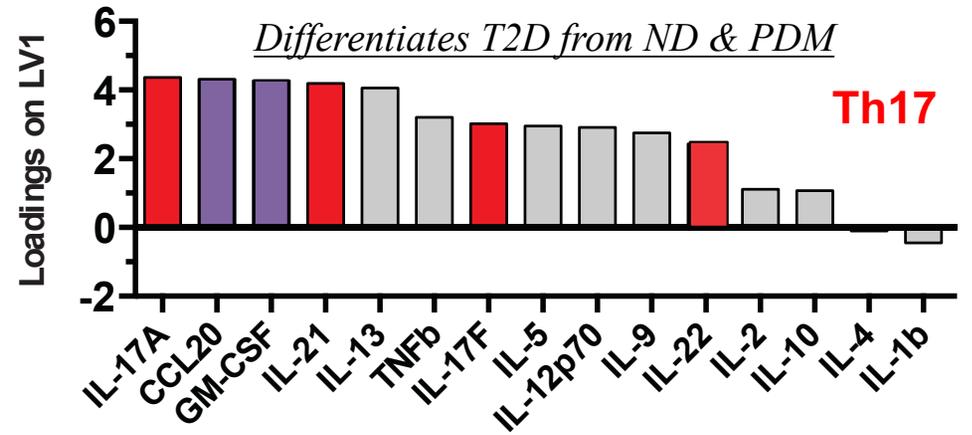
# The Definition of “Inflammation” Dynamically changes during the Development of Type 2 Diabetes



## Prediction

*T cell cytokines can be used to accurately determine multiple disease states*

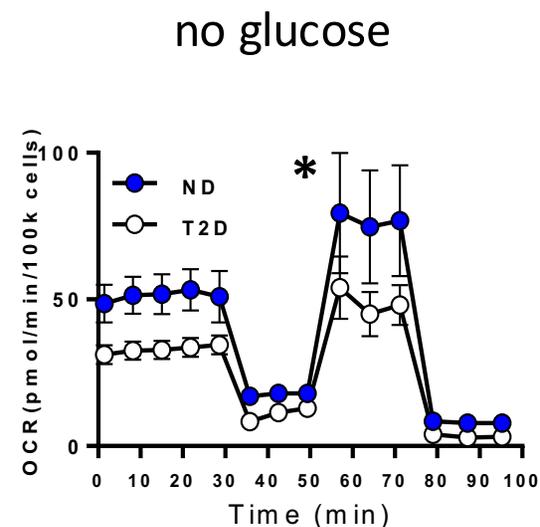
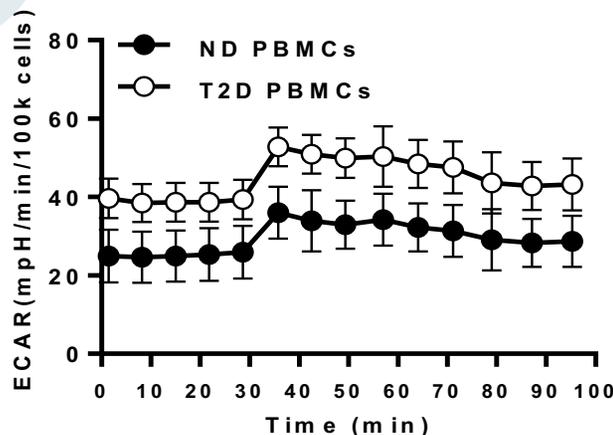
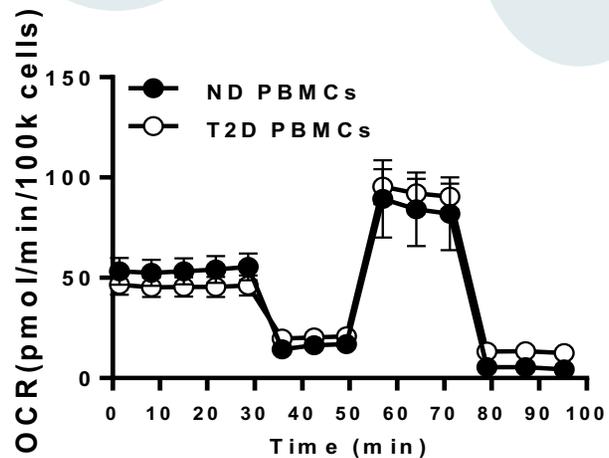
*(Calibration Accuracy = 83%, Cross-Validation Accuracy = 75%)*



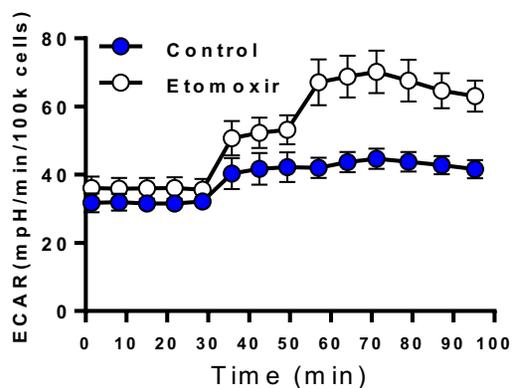
## Interpretation

*Th17 signature cytokines are unique to classifying T2D subjects, while Th2 cytokines may differentiate ND from pre-T2D; different T cell subsets dominate different stages of disease progression*

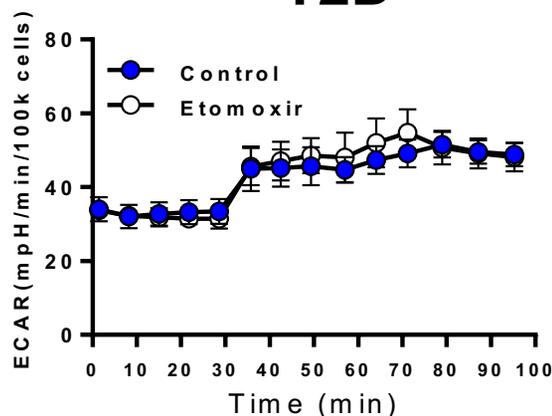
# PBMCs from T2D are more Glycolytic than PBMCs from ND



ND



T2D



N=4, \*N=2 for T2D in etomoxir graph only

Does glycolysis drive the Th17 signature?

Nicholas et al., unpublished

# Leveraging Human Genetic Variation to Predict the Effect of Plasma Lipids on Coronary Heart Disease

Gina M. Peloso

Assistant Professor

Biostatistics

SPH

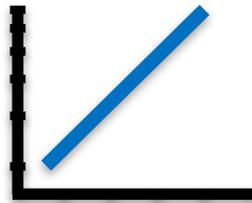
# Lipid pathways and Coronary Heart Disease (CHD)

## Epidemiology

**LDL**



**CHD Risk**

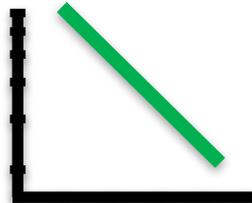


**Plasma Level**

**HDL**



**CHD Risk**

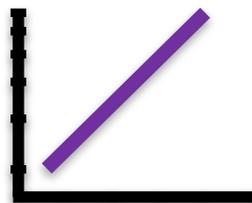


**Plasma Level**

**TG**



**CHD Risk**



**Plasma Level**

## Genetics

**LDLR**  
**PCSK9**  
**NPC1/L1**

**Common variants:**  
*no effect on CHD*  
**Rare variants:**  
*no effect on CHD*

Voight\*, Peloso\*, et al. *Lancet* (2012)

**Common variants**  
**effect on CHD**

Do, et al. *Nature Genetics* (2013)

**Rare variants:**

**APOC3, APOA5, LPL**

Crosby\*, Peloso\*, et al. *N Engl J Med* (2014)

Do, et al. *Nature* (2015)

## Therapy

**Statins**  
**PCSK9 Abs**  
**Ezetimibe**



~~**HDL-raising therapy**~~  
**Failed**



## Leveraging Human Genetic Variation to Predict the Effect of Plasma Lipids on Coronary Heart Disease

- Genetic variation can be leveraged to predict the effects of biomarkers on disease
- Naturally-occurring null mutations are valuable in determining the effect of a therapeutic target

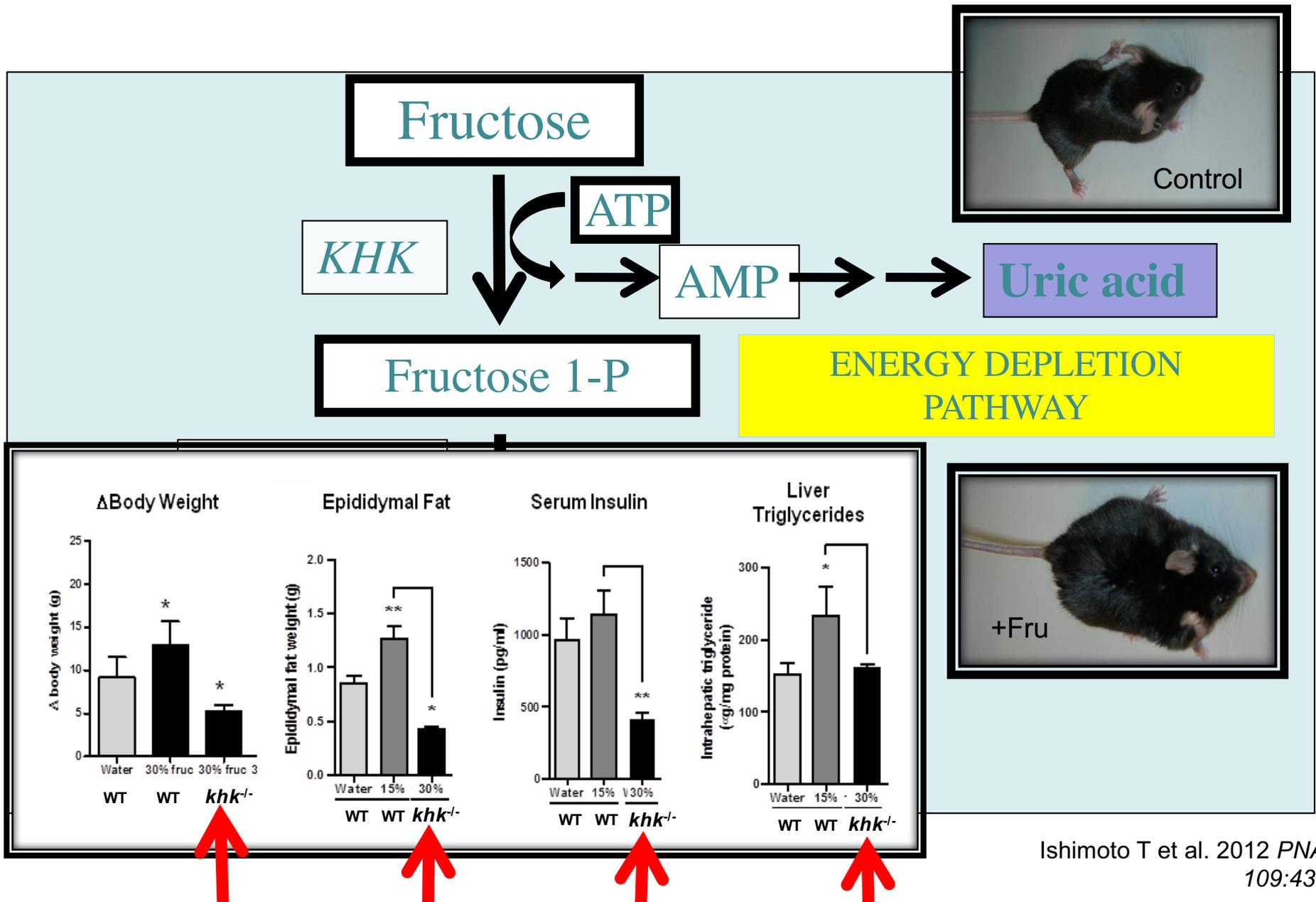
# Metabolic Disease: Knockout Mice for Investigation of Disease

Dean R. Tolan

Professor

Biology  
CAS

# FRUCTOSE THE ONLY NUTRIENT THAT CAUSES ENERGY DEPLETION



# Hereditary Fructose Intolerance (HFI)

- One of the thousands of a single-gene disorders collectively termed Inborn Errors of Metabolism – Carbohydrate metabolism
- Intake of fructose results liver failure and Death



Gitzelmann *et al.*, 1995

## The *aldoB*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse

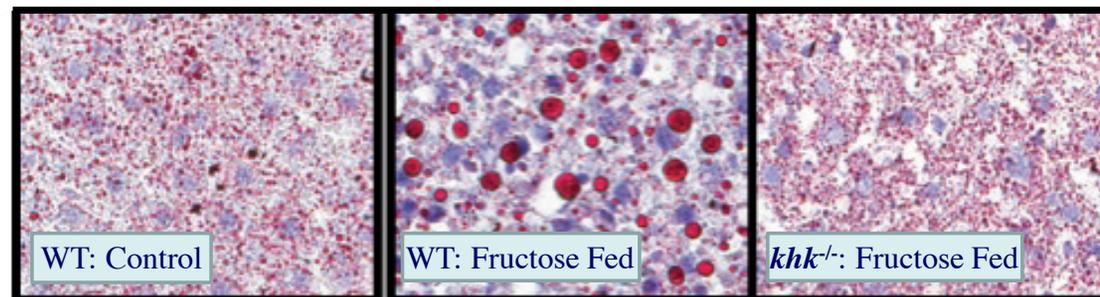


HFI Child (3 yo) after 3 wk of no fructose

*aldoB*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (8 wo) after 1 wk of 40% fructose exposure

Liver pathology of persistent fatty liver is similar to that seen in HFI

## Blocking Fructose Metabolism Prevents Fatty Liver



**Acknowledgement:**  
Drs. Rick Johnson  
& Miguel Lanasa  
at Univ. Colo.  
Denver Med. Cntr.

# Obesity and Region Specific Gene Expression in Brain and Genomics of Alzheimer's Disease

Anita L. DeStefano

Professor

Biostatistics, SPH, and Neurology, MED

Associate Director | BU Genome Science Institute; and  
Director | Graduate Certificate Program in Statistical Genetics

# Neuroendocrine Control of Obesity

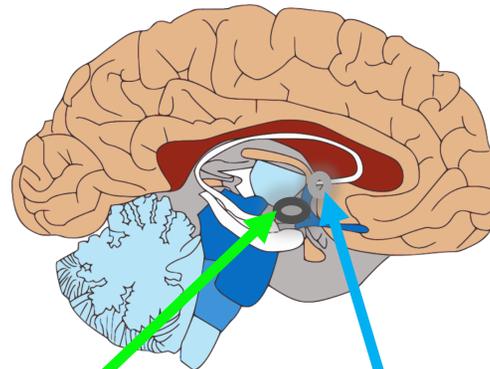
Framingham Heart Study  
Religious Orders Study  
Memory and Aging Project

Longitudinal cohort studies with  
brain donor programs

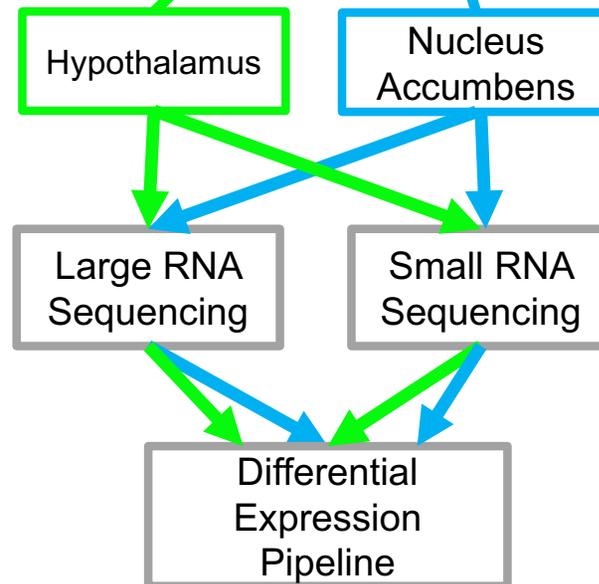
Tyrosinase Related Protein  
???

Choi SH, Labadorf AT, Myers RH, Lunetta KL, Dupuis J, DeStefano AL. Evaluation of logistic regression models and effect of covariates for case-control study in RNA-Seq analysis. *BMC Bioinformatics*. 2017 Feb 06; 18(1):91. PMID: 28166718.

Wake C, Labadorf A, Dumitriu A, Hoss AG, Bregu J, Albrecht KH, DeStefano AL, Myers RH. Novel microRNA discovery using small RNA sequencing in post-mortem human brain. *BMC Genomics*. 2016 Oct 04; 17(1):776. PMID: 27716130.



Obese and Control post mortem brain tissue from two regions



MT-RNR1 ???  
Mitochondrially encoded 12S rRNA – MOTS-c protein associated with insulin sensitivity and obesity

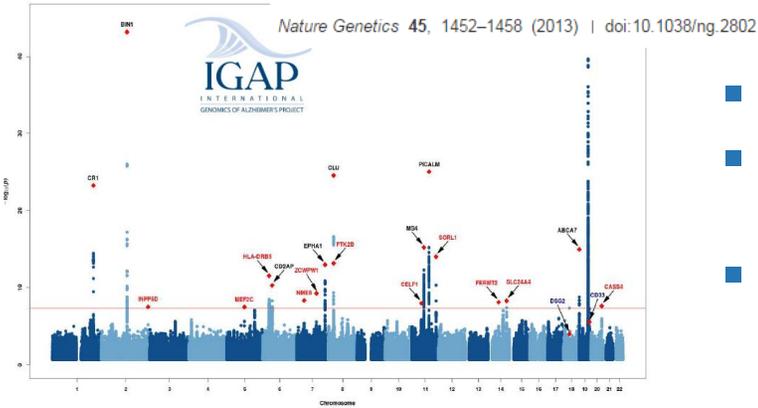
Collaborators:  
Rick Myers, Sudha Seshadri, David Bennett, Thor Stein  
Chris Wake (graduate student)

# Alzheimer Disease Sequencing Project (ADSP)



Meta-analysis of 74,046 individuals identifies 11 new susceptibility loci for Alzheimer's disease

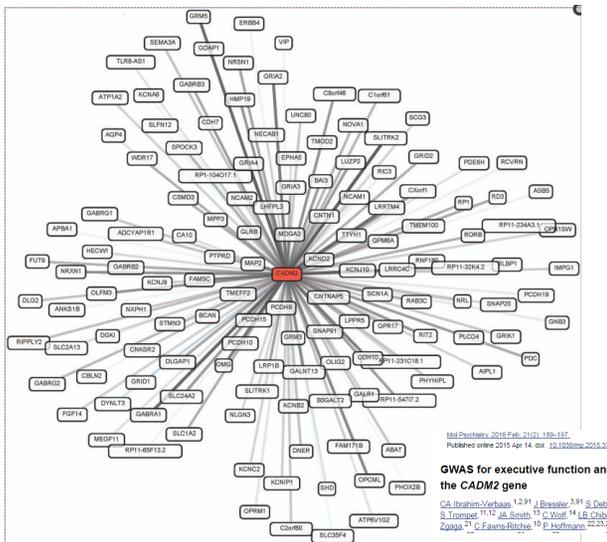
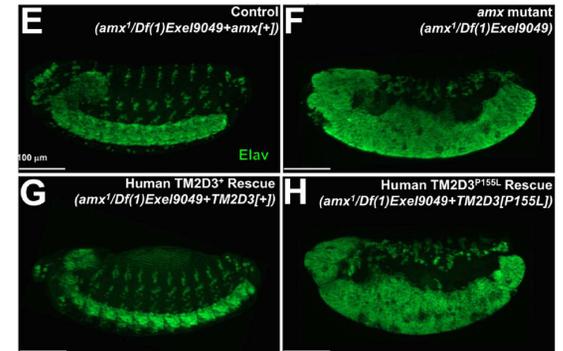
Jean-Charles Lambert, Carla A Ibrahim-Verbaas, Denise Harold, Adam C Naj, Rebecca Sims, Céline Bellenguez, Gyungah Jun, Anita L DeStefano, Joshua C Bis, Gary W Beecham, Benjamin Grenier-Boley, Giancarlo Russo, Tricia A Thornton-Wells, Nicola Jones, Albert V Smith, Vincent Chouraki, Charlene Thomas, M Arfan Ikram, Diana Zelenika, Badri N Vardarajan, Yoichiro Kamatani, Chiao-Feng Lin, Amy Gerrish, Helena Schmidt, Brian Kunkle *et al.*



- Joint NIA/NHGRI project
- CHARGE and ADGC consortia
- Two funded groups at BU
  - Sudha Seshadri (PI U01)
  - Lindsay Farrer (BU PI U19)

Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE) Consortium  
 ● Framingham Heart Study

- Three phases
- ~10,000 WES
- ~10,000 WGS
  - Case/control analyses
  - Family based
  - Endophenotypes



GWAS for executive function and processing speed suggests involvement of the *CADM2* gene

PLoS Genet. 2016 Oct 20;12(10):e1006327. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1006327. eCollection 2016.

### Rare Functional Variant in TM2D3 is Associated with Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Jakobsdottir J<sup>1</sup>, van der Lee SA<sup>2</sup>, Bis JC<sup>3</sup>, Chouraki V<sup>4,5</sup>, Li-Kroeger D<sup>6,7</sup>, Yamamoto S<sup>6,7,8</sup>, Grove ML<sup>9</sup>, Naj A<sup>10</sup>, Vronskaya M<sup>11</sup>, Salazar JL<sup>6</sup>, DeStefano AL<sup>5,12</sup>, Brody JA<sup>3</sup>, Smith AV<sup>1,13</sup>, Amin N<sup>4</sup>, Sims R<sup>11</sup>, Ibrahim-Verbaas CA<sup>2,14</sup>, Choi SH<sup>5,12</sup>, Satzabai CL<sup>4,5</sup>, Lopez OL<sup>15</sup>, Beiser A<sup>4,5,12</sup>, Ikram MA<sup>2,14,15</sup>, Garcia ME<sup>17</sup>, Hayward C<sup>18,19</sup>, Varga LV<sup>20</sup>, Bigatti S<sup>21,22</sup>, Franks PW<sup>20,23,24</sup>, Hallmans G<sup>25</sup>, Rolandsson O<sup>26</sup>, Jansson JH<sup>23,27</sup>, Porteous DJ<sup>19,28</sup>, Salomaa V<sup>29</sup>, Eriksson J<sup>30</sup>, Rice KM<sup>30</sup>, Beilken HJ<sup>6,7,8,31</sup>, Levy D<sup>5,32,4</sup>, Uitterlinden AG<sup>2,33</sup>, Emilsson V<sup>1,34</sup>, Rotter JJ<sup>35</sup>, Aspelund T<sup>1,36</sup>, Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology consortium; Alzheimer's Disease Genetic Consortium; Genetic and Environmental Risk in Alzheimer's Disease consortium; O'Donnell C<sup>5,32</sup>, Fitzpatrick AL<sup>37,38</sup>, Launer LJ<sup>17</sup>, Hofman A<sup>2</sup>, Wang LS<sup>39</sup>, Williams J<sup>11</sup>, Schellenberg GD<sup>39</sup>, Boerwinkle E<sup>40</sup>, Psaty RH<sup>4,5</sup>, Shulman JH<sup>6,7,8</sup>, Gudnason V<sup>1,13</sup>, van Duijn CM<sup>41</sup>.

- *OPRL1*
- *GAS2L2*



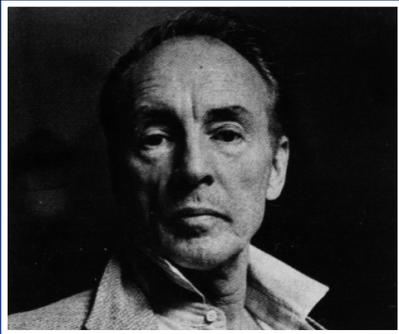
# Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration: Prion and Alzheimer's Diseases

David A. Harris

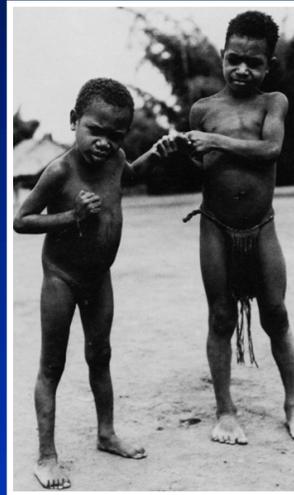
Chair and Professor

Biochemistry  
MED

# PRION DISEASES: Infectious neurological disorders



**Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease**



**Kuru**

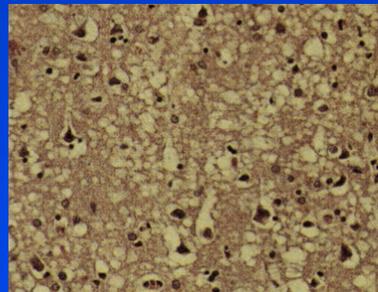


**Mad Cow Disease (BSE)**

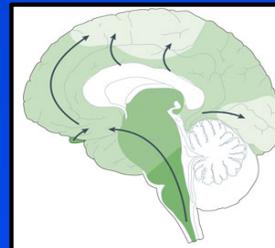
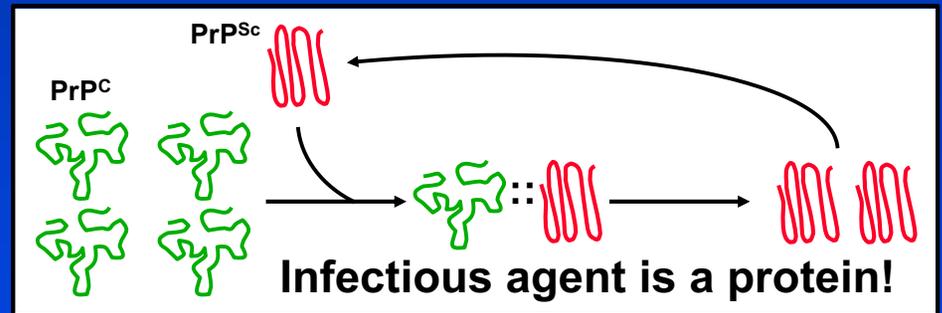
## Clinical Features

- **Dementia**
- **Ataxia, tremor, myoclonus**
- **Incubation: years**
- **Fatal**

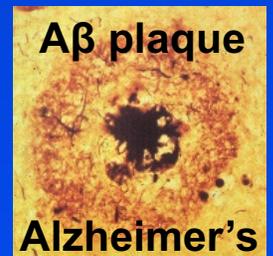
## Neuropathology



**Spongiosis**



**Prion-like spread  
In AD, PD, etc.**

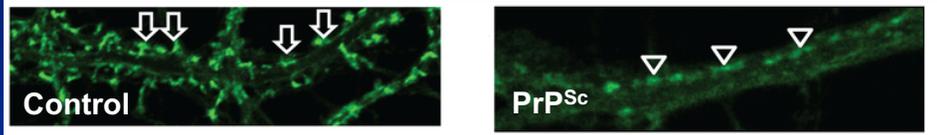


**Aβ plaque**

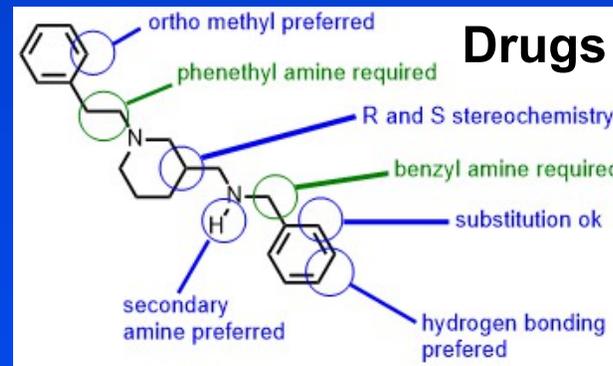
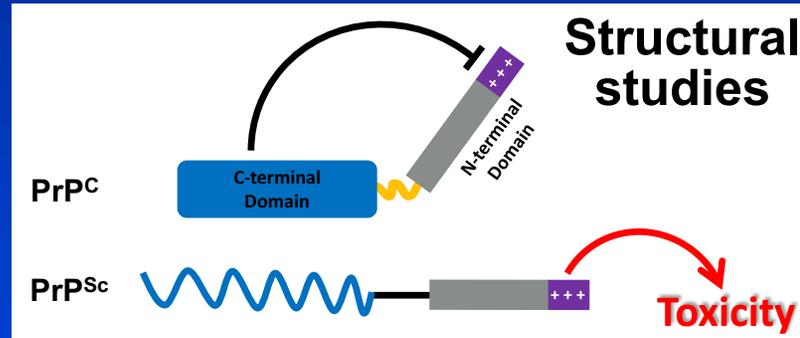
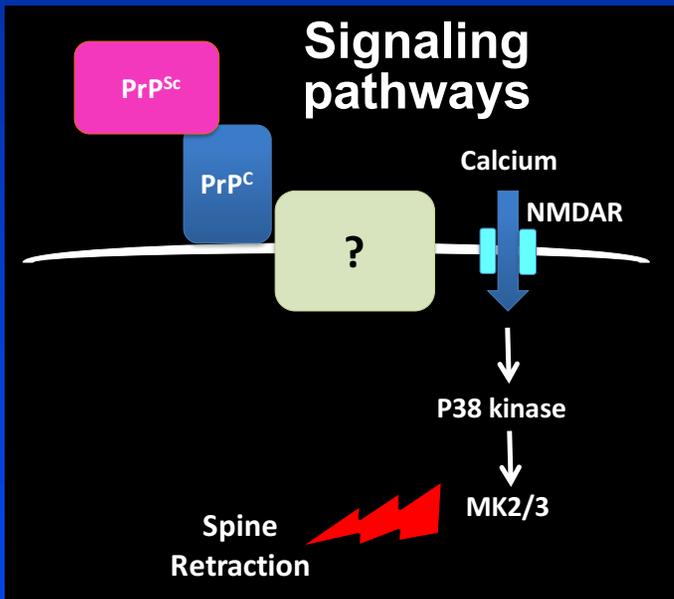
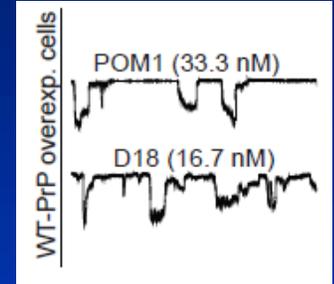
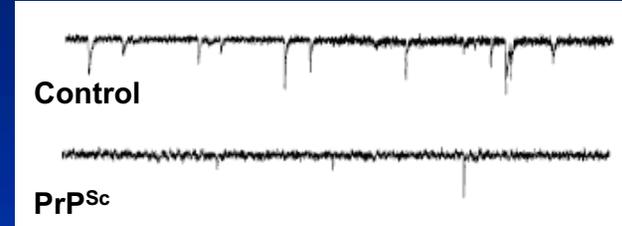
**Alzheimer's**

# HARRIS LAB: How do prions and A $\beta$ cause neurodegeneration?

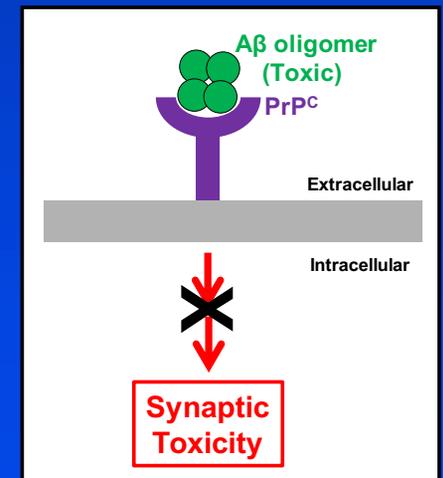
## PrP<sup>Sc</sup> and A $\beta$ are synaptotoxic



## Electrophysiology



## PrP<sup>C</sup> as an A $\beta$ receptor in AD



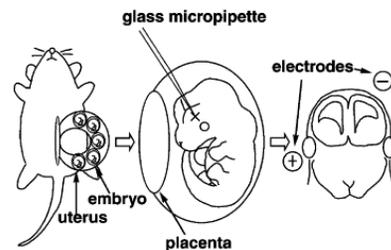
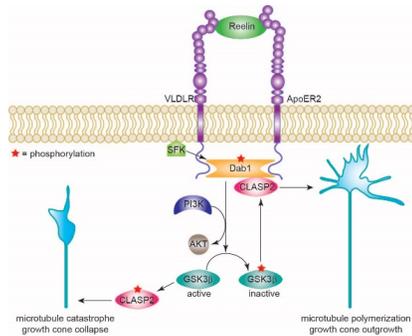
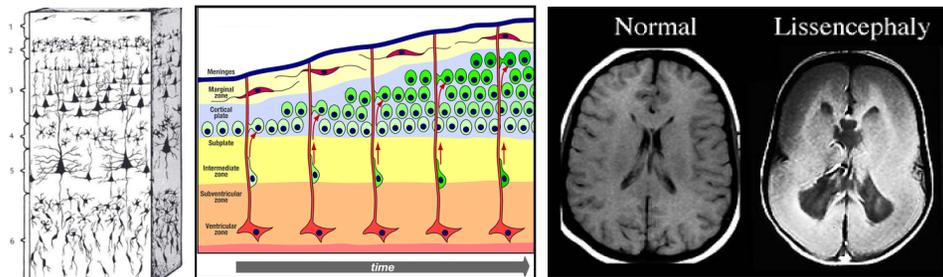
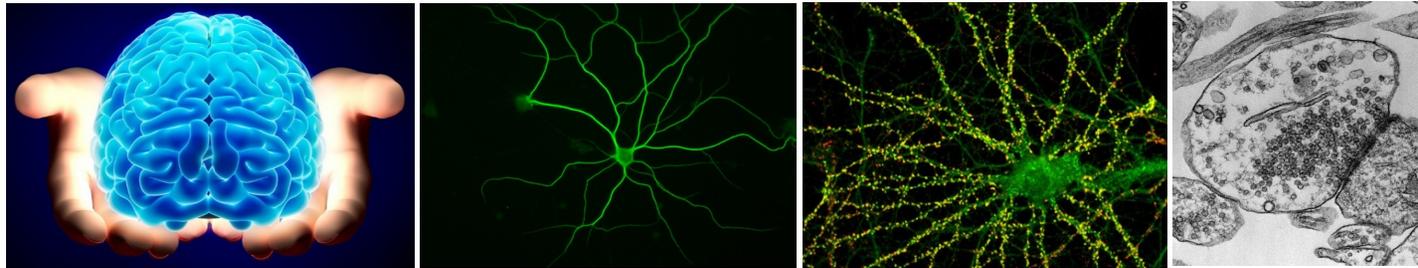
# Molecular and Synaptic Mechanisms Underlying Neurodevelopmental and Neurodegenerative Disorders

Angela Ho

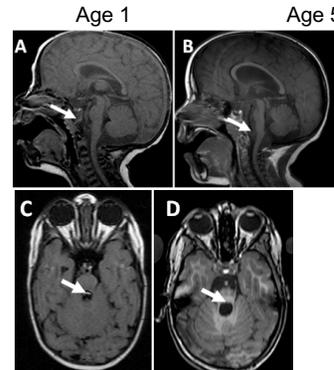
Associate Professor

Biology  
CAS

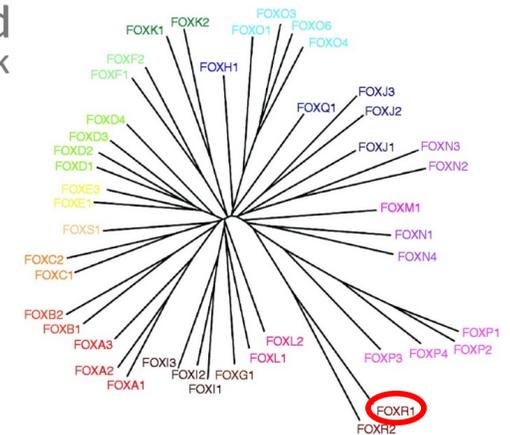
# How does the brain develop?



**Undiagnosed Diseases Network**  
NHGRI, NIH, ORDR



microcephaly  
progressive brain atrophy  
global developmental delay

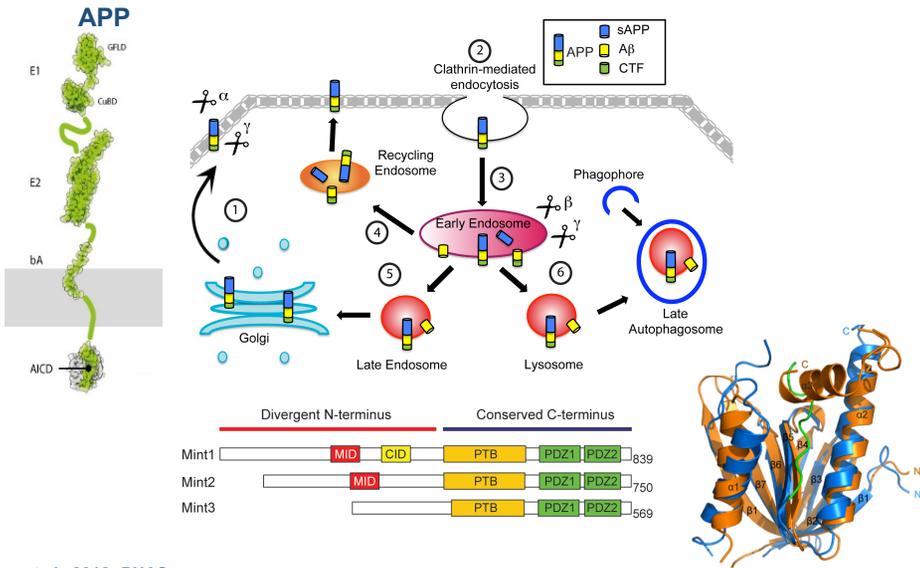
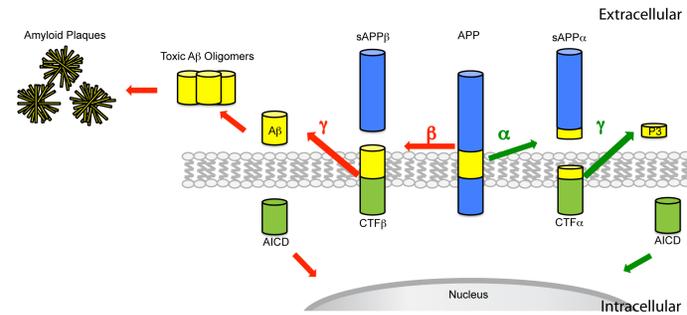
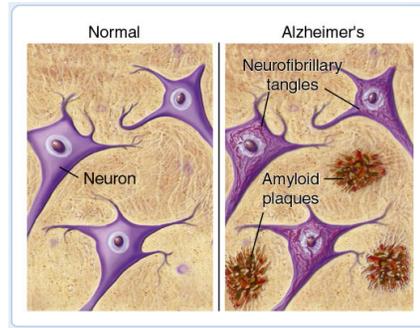
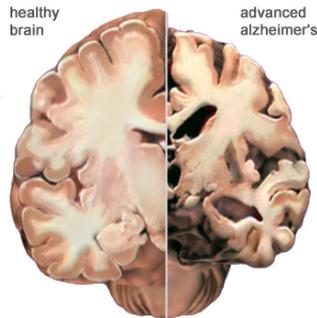


The FOX family play roles in determining cell proliferation and cell fate specification during early development

Beffert et al., 2012, *J Neurosci*  
Dillon et al., 2017, *Neuron*  
Funded R21 MH100581 2013-2016

Funded R21 GM114629 2015-2017

# What causes Alzheimer's disease?



Matos et al., 2012, *PNAS*  
 Chaufy et al., 2012, *J Neurosci*  
 Sullivan et al., 2014, *JBC*  
 Funded R01 AG044499 2014-2019

**ApoE2**   **ApoE3**   **ApoE4**

**Strongest genetic risk factor associated with late-onset AD**

postsynaptic membrane  
 cytosol  
 nucleus  
 OFF  
 ON Learning & Memory

Human LRP8

Exon: 2 3 4 5 7A 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

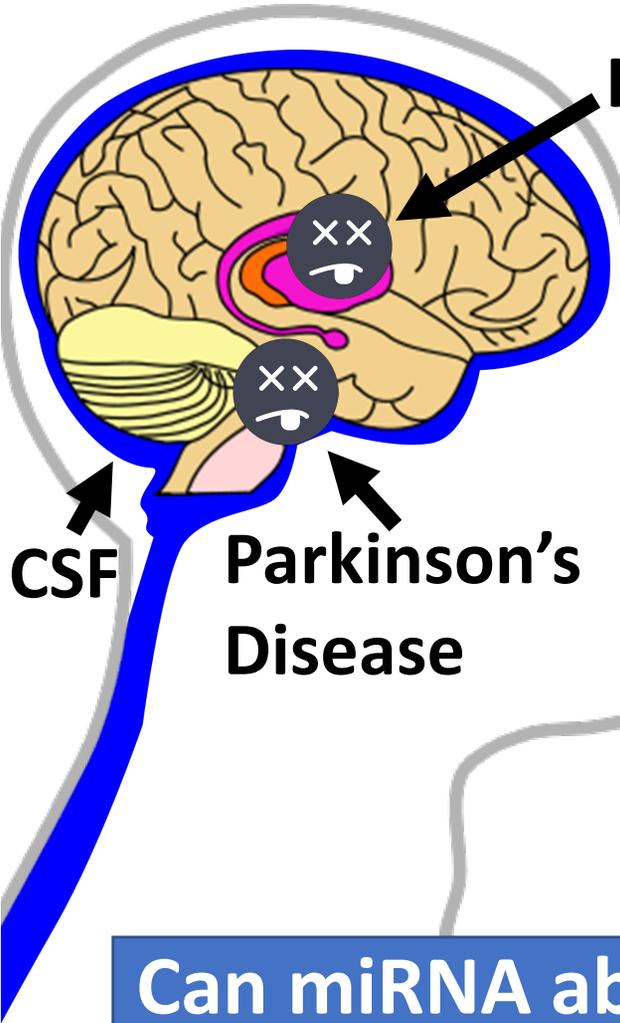
Binding: LDLR, ApoE, ApoA2, ApoA1, ApoA4, ApoA5, ApoA6, ApoA7, ApoA8, ApoA9, ApoA10, ApoA11, ApoA12, ApoA13, ApoA14, ApoA15, ApoA16, ApoA17, ApoA18, ApoA19, ApoA20, ApoA21, ApoA22, ApoA23, ApoA24, ApoA25, ApoA26, ApoA27, ApoA28, ApoA29, ApoA30, ApoA31, ApoA32, ApoA33, ApoA34, ApoA35, ApoA36, ApoA37, ApoA38, ApoA39, ApoA40, ApoA41, ApoA42, ApoA43, ApoA44, ApoA45, ApoA46, ApoA47, ApoA48, ApoA49, ApoA50, ApoA51, ApoA52, ApoA53, ApoA54, ApoA55, ApoA56, ApoA57, ApoA58, ApoA59, ApoA60, ApoA61, ApoA62, ApoA63, ApoA64, ApoA65, ApoA66, ApoA67, ApoA68, ApoA69, ApoA70, ApoA71, ApoA72, ApoA73, ApoA74, ApoA75, ApoA76, ApoA77, ApoA78, ApoA79, ApoA80, ApoA81, ApoA82, ApoA83, ApoA84, ApoA85, ApoA86, ApoA87, ApoA88, ApoA89, ApoA90, ApoA91, ApoA92, ApoA93, ApoA94, ApoA95, ApoA96, ApoA97, ApoA98, ApoA99, ApoA100

Harold and Margaret Southerland Alzheimer's Research Fund  
 R01 AG057649 - pending

# MicroRNA-Based Biomarkers in Neurodegenerative Disease

Adam Labadorf

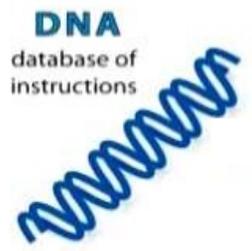
Director, BU Bioinformatics Hub, Bioinformatics Program, and  
Research Scientist, Neurogenetics Lab, Neurology, MED



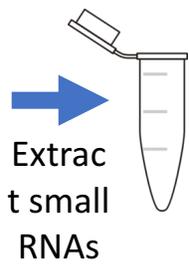
**Huntington's Disease**

**Parkinson's Disease**

**CSF**



**The Data:**



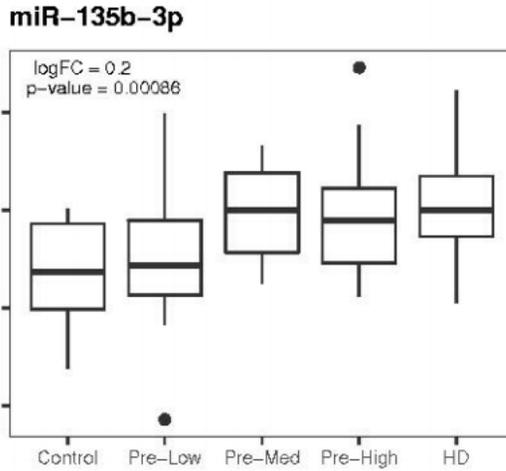
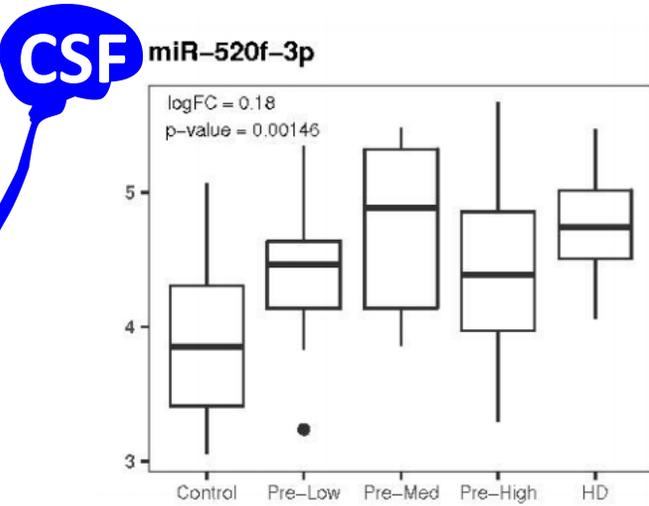
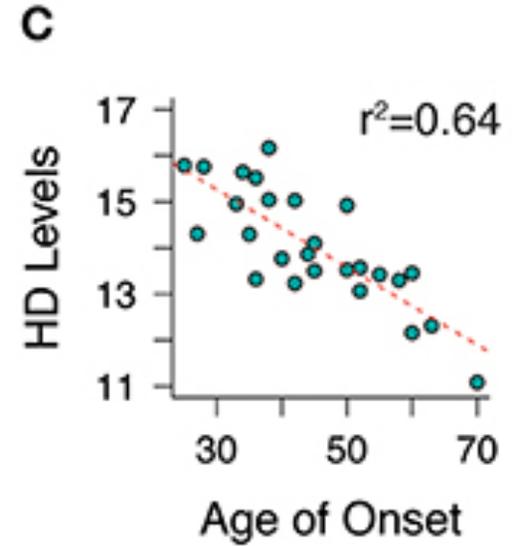
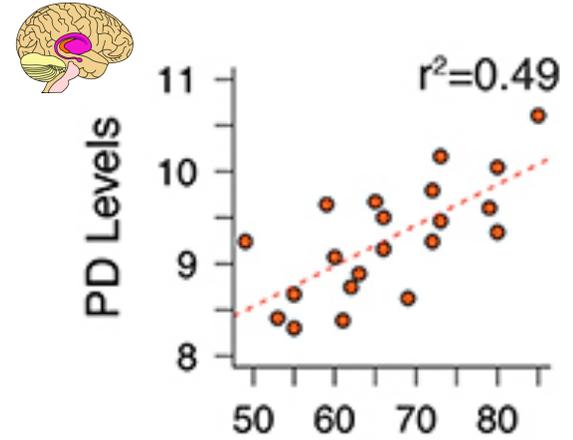
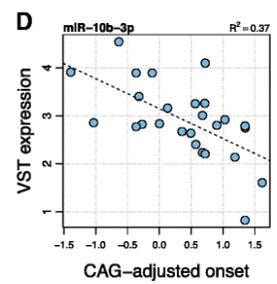
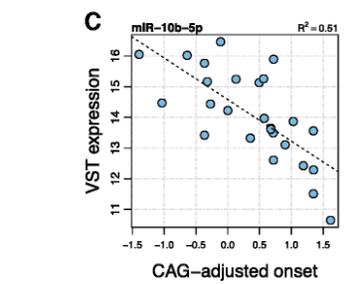
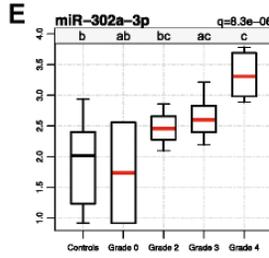
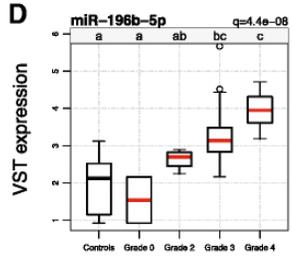
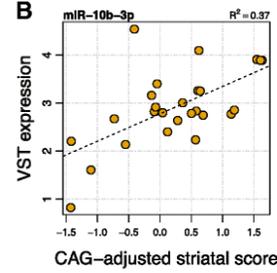
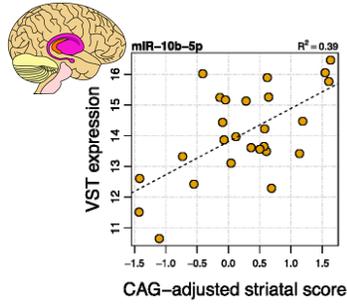
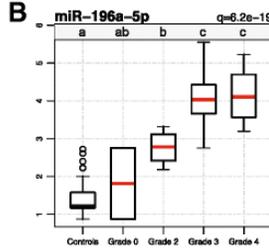
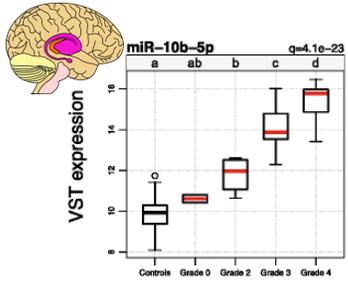
**miRNASeq**



**Quantify miRNAs**

**Correlation with disease features**

**Can miRNA abundance be used as a biomarker for HD and PD?**



# Regulation of Emotional States

Helen Barbas

Professor

Health Sciences, SAR, and  
Anatomy & Neurobiology, MED

Research is supported by NIH grants from NIMH, NINDS, NSF, CELEST,  
Autism Speaks, and The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation

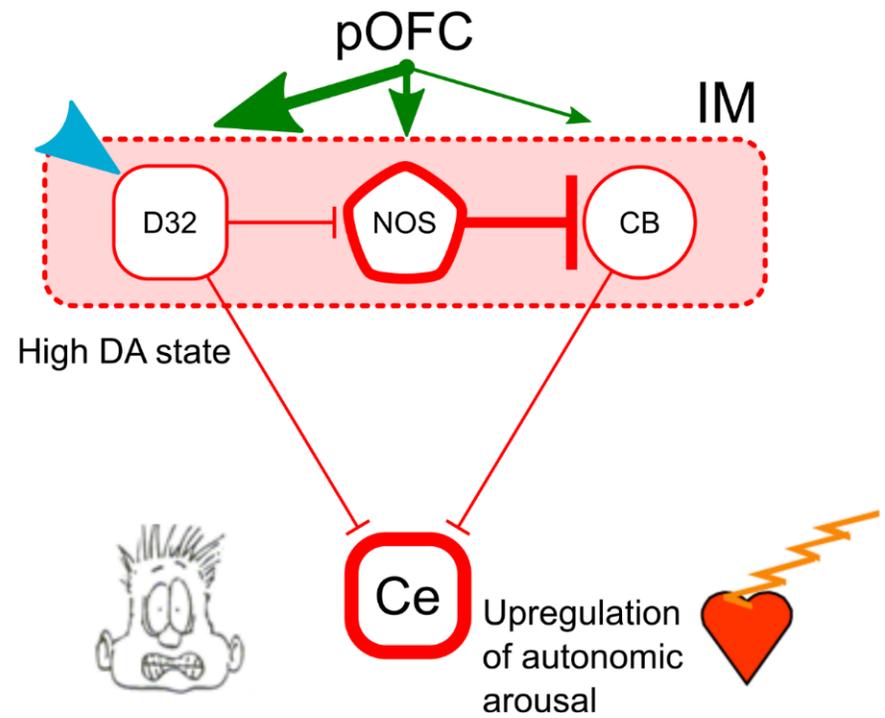
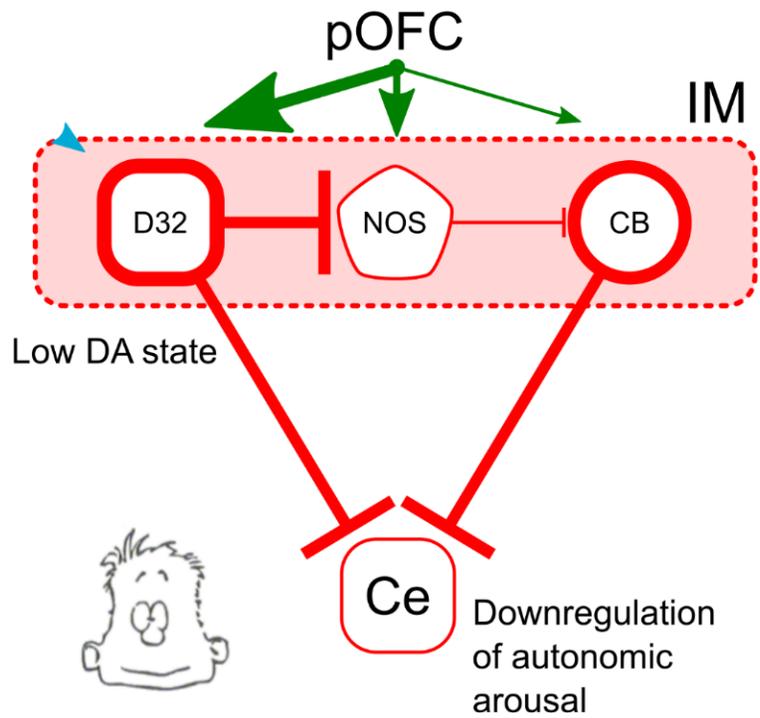
## Regulation of emotional states

Pathways in the brain that underlie our thoughts and emotions converge on the same areas:

a way for **emotions** to influence **cognition and action**

How do we shift from a calm state, to another state to cope with an emergency, or to an abnormal state such as a condition of panic?

We recently discovered a specific innervation by a prefrontal pathway to **an inhibitory system in the amygdala**, the brain's emotional center. The prefrontal pathway can bias the system by contacting **distinct classes of inhibitory neurons** to flexibly switch between states. The switch between states is based on the level of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the system.



Adapted from: Neuroscience, 2016; J. Neuroscience, 2017, in press (early release)

# Discerning Disease Mechanism From Network Maps

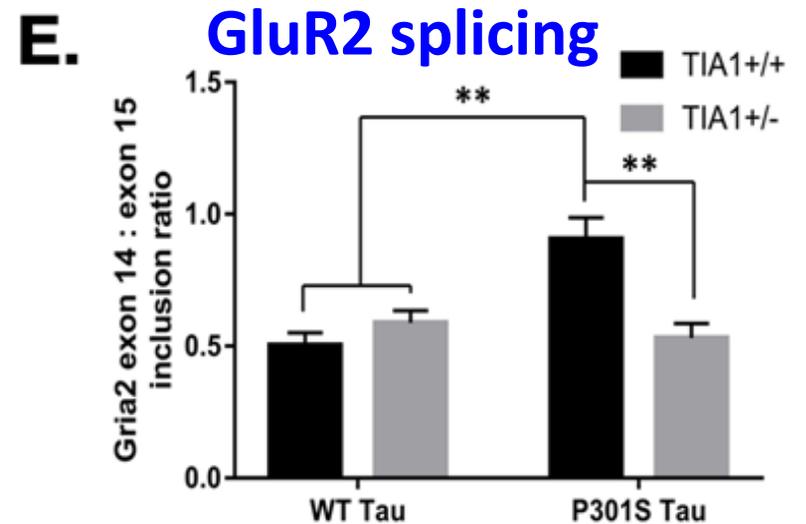
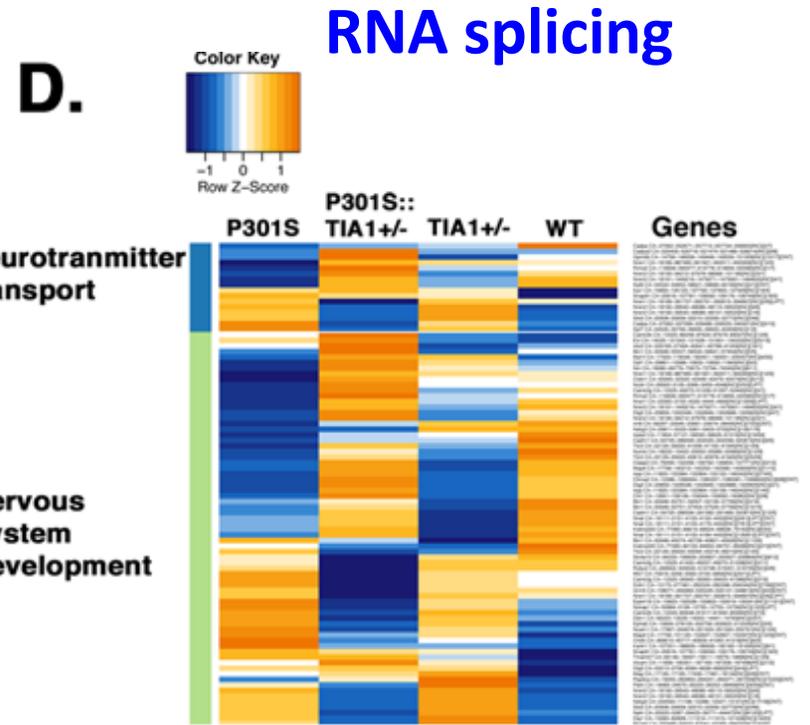
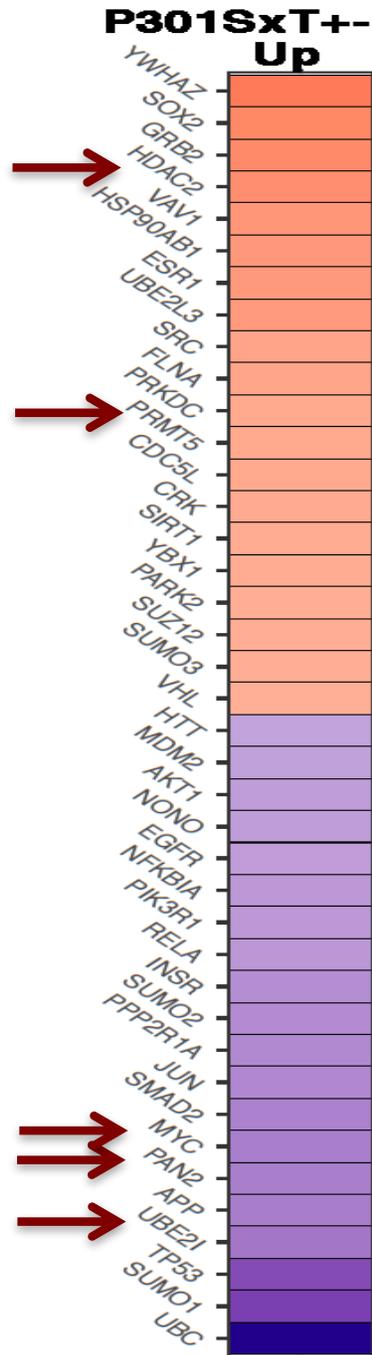
Benjamin Wolozin

Professor

Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics and Neurology  
MED

COI: Aquinnah Pharmaceuticals

# TIA1 reduction protects P301S tau mice: RNAseq





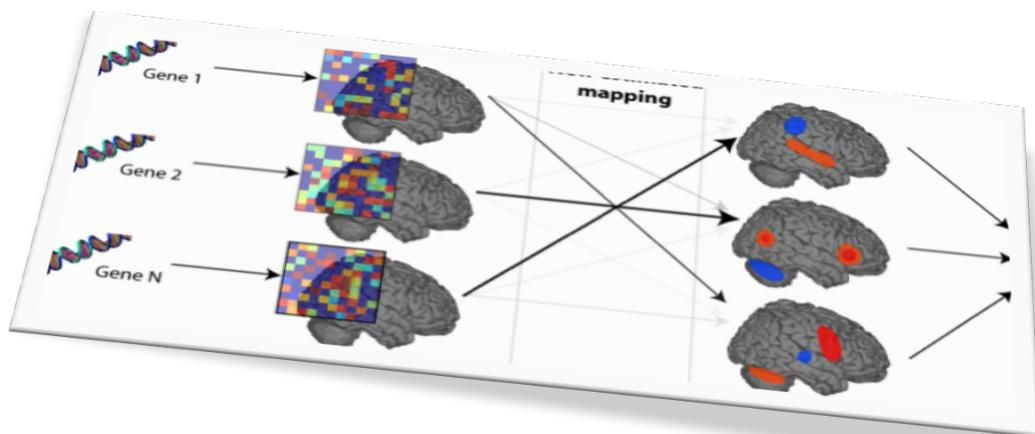
# Gene Expression as an Intermediate Phenotype in Speech and Language Disorders

Jason W. Bohland

Assistant Professor

Health Sciences and  
Speech, Language & Hearing  
Sciences  
SAR

And Emma M. Myers



# Genes implicated in speech and language disorders

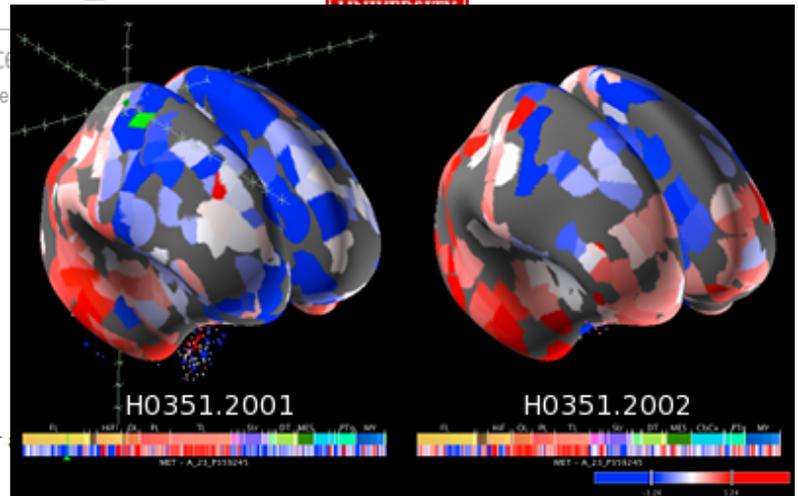
Search

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**SLDB**  
Speech/Language Disorders Database

- GENES
- LOCI
- BRAIN IMAGING DATA
- SUGGEST AN ADDITION
- HELP

## Allen Human Brain Atlas



### Gene / phenotype associations for ROBO1

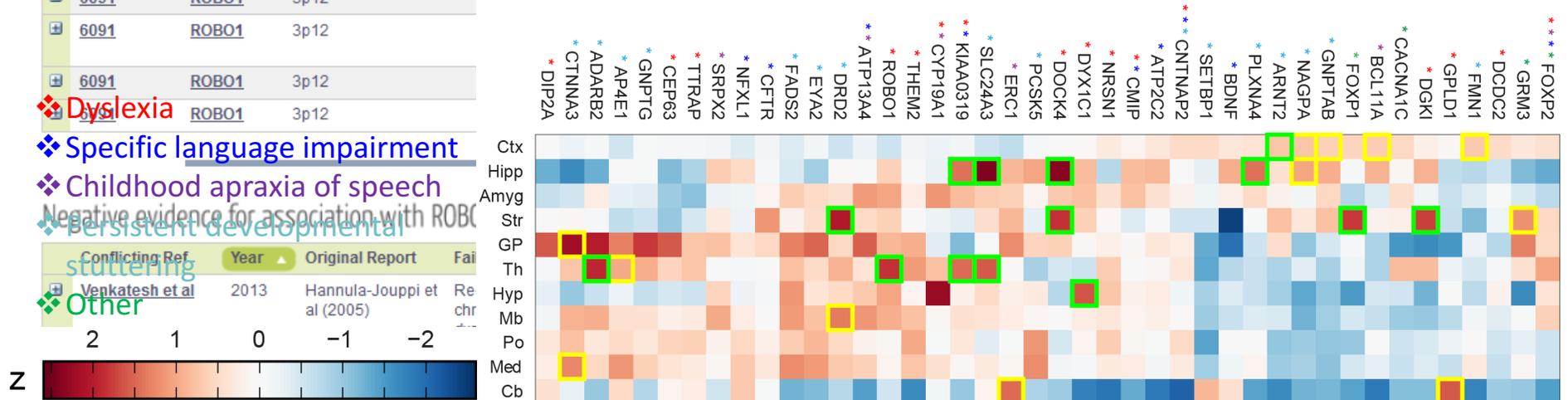


- Click column headers to sort. Click to expand any row to see more details about the particular variants of ROBO1 and a particular phenotypic variable.
- Click the Pubmed IDs in the last column to link out to the primary research article. Click the links in the last column to download the full *Genotype-Phenotype* record as JSON or XML formatted text.

Entrez Id	Symbol	Location	Disorder	Brief Phenotype	Reference	Year	Download
6091	ROBO1	3p12	Dyslexia	Reduced expression of ROBO1 on chromosomes from dyslexics	Hannula-Jouppi et al	2005	
6091	ROBO1	3p12					
6091	ROBO1	3p12					
6091	ROBO1	3p12					

- Dyslexia
- Specific language impairment
- Childhood apraxia of speech
- Negative evidence for association with ROBO1
- Persistent developmental stuttering
- Other

Is there convergence in where genes implicated in these disorders are (co)expressed in the brain?



# Neuroanatomical enrichment

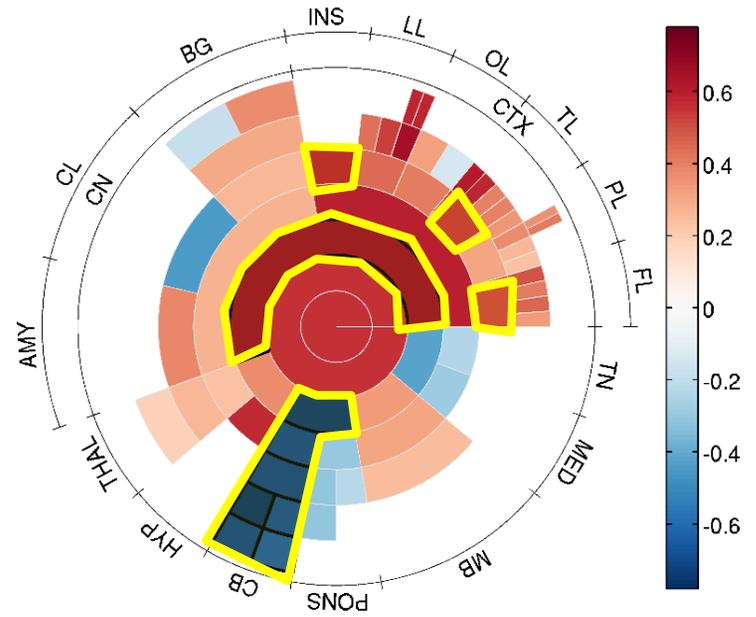
ADARB2	CTNNA3	FOXP1	ROBO1
AP4E1	CYP19A1	FOXP2	SETBP1
ARNT2	DCDC2	GNPTAB	SLC24A3
ATP13A4	DGKI	GNPTG	SRPX2
ATP2C2	DIP2A	GPLD1	THEM2
BCL11A	DOCK4	GRM3	TTRAP
BDNF	DRD2	KIAA0319	
CACNA1C	DYX1C1	NAGPA	
CEP63	ERC1	NFXL1	
CFTR	EYA2	NRSN1	
CMIP	FADS2	PCSK5	
CNTNAP2	FMN1	PLXNA4	

High-confidence “language genes” have enhanced expression in specific areas of the neocortex

HIGH CONFIDENCE GENES

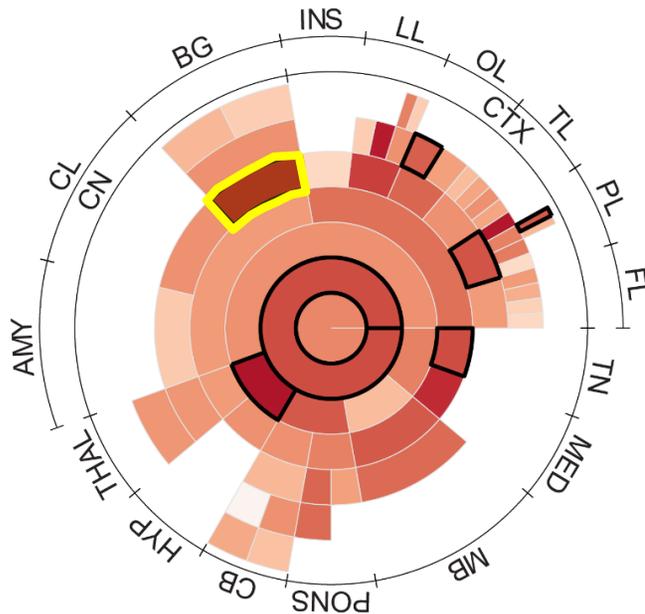
**Bold outlines** indicate significant ( $P < 0.05$ , Bonferroni-corrected) enrichment

## GENE SET ENRICHMENT

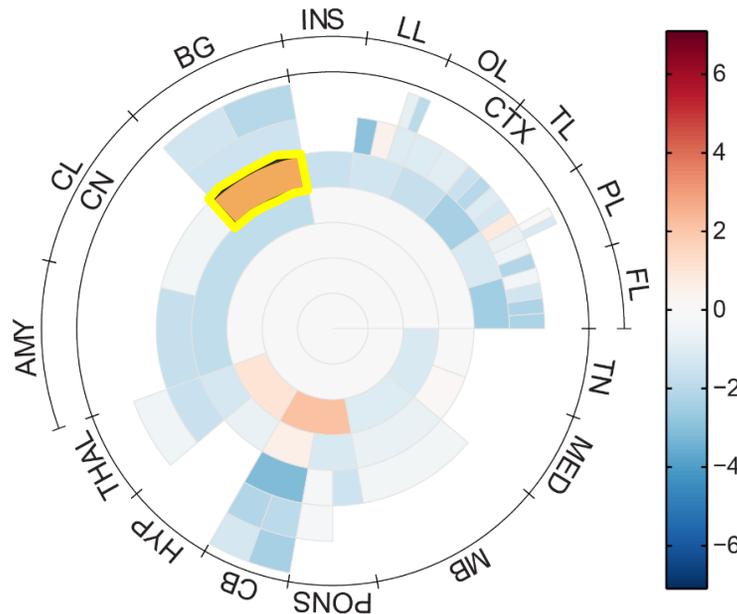


## GENE PERMUTATION

STUTTERING CANDIDATES



## SAMPLE PERMUTATION



Stuttering associated genes have enhance co-expression in the basal ganglia  
*Specific to the gene set and the brain region*